What is claimed is:

1. In a data-over-cable system, a method for establishing communications between a network client device and a network device; the method comprising:

a) dividing a dynamic range of the network client device into a plurality of regions;

b) initiating at least one initial ranging in at least one of the regions using a certain power level;

c) determining if a range response message is received from the network device;

d) adjusting the power level and reinitiating step b) and c) till a range response message is received.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network client device is a cable modem.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the network device is a cable modem termination system.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of dividing the dynamic range of the network client device includes dividing the dynamic range of a transmitter of the network client device by the dynamic range of a receiver of the network device.

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5. A computer readable medium having stored therein instructions for causing a processing unit to execute the steps of the method of claim 1.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of initiating at least one initial ranging includes sending a range request message.